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In Provincial Congreſs,

Cambridge, October 26, 1774.

Whereas in Conſequence of the

preſent unhappy Diſputes between Great-Britain and the Colonies, a formidable Body of Troops with warlike Preparations of every Sort are already arrived at, and others deſtined for the Metropolis of this Province, and the expreſſed Deſign of their being ſent is to execute Acts of the Britiſh Parliament, utterly ſubverſive of the Conſtitution of the Province: And whereas his Excellency General Gage has attempted by his Troops to diſperſe the Inhabitants of Salem, whilſt aſſembled to conſult Meaſures for preſerving their Freedom; and to ſubjugate the Province to arbitrary Government;—And proceeding to ſtill more unjuſtifiable and alarming Lengths has Fortified againſt the Country the Capital of the Province, and thus greatly endangered the Lives, Liberties and Properties of its oppreſſed Citizens;—invaded private Property by unlawfully ſeizing and retaining large Quantities of Ammunition in the Arſenal at Boſton and ſundry Pieces of Ordnance in the ſame Town—committed to the Cuſtody of his Troops the Arms, Ammunition, Ordnance and Warlike Stores of all Sorts, provided at the Public Expence for the Uſe of the Province, and by all poſſible Means endeavoured to place the Province entirely in a defenceleſs State—at the ſame Time having neglected and altogether diſregarded Aſſurances from this Congreſs, of the pacific Diſpoſitions of the Inhabitants of the Province, and Intreaties that he would ceaſe from Meaſures which tended to prevent a Reſtoration of Harmony between Great-Britain and the Colonies:

Wherefore it is the Opinion of this Congreſs—That notwithſtanding nothing but Slavery ought more to be deprecated than Hoſtilities with Great-Britain—notwithſtanding the Province has not the moſt diſtant Deſign of attacking, annoying or moleſting his Majeſty's Troops aforeſaid, but on the other Hand will conſider and treat every Attempt of the Kind as well as all Meaſures tending to prevent a Reconciliation between Britain and the Colonies as the higheſt Degree of Enmity to the Province—Nevertheleſs there is great Reaſon from the Conſiderations aforeſaid, to be apprehenſive of the moſt fatal Conſequences; and that the Province may be in ſome Degree provided againſt the ſame, and under full Perſuaſion that the Meaſures expreſſed in the following Reſolves are perfectly conſiſtent with ſuch Reſolves of the Continental Congreſs as have been communicated to us,

It is *Reſolved*, and hereby Recommended to the ſeveral Companies of Militia in this Province, who have not already choſen and appointed Officers, that they meet forthwith, and elect Officers to Command their reſpective Companies; and that the Officers ſo choſen aſſemble as ſoon as may be; and where the ſaid Officers ſhall judge the Limits of the preſent Regiments too extenſive, that they divide them, and ſettle and determine their Limits, and proceed to elect Field Officers to Command the reſpective Regiments ſo formed; and that the Field Officers ſo elected, forthwith endeavour to enliſt one Quarter at the leaſt of the Number of the reſpective Companies, and form them into Companies of fifty Privates at the leaſt, who ſhall equip and hold themſelves in Readineſs to march at the ſhorteſt Notice; and that each and every Company ſo formed, chooſe a Captain and two Lieutenants to command them on any neceſſary and emergent Service: And that the ſaid Captain and Subalterns ſo elected, form the ſaid Companies into Battalions, to conſiſt of nine Companies each; and that the Captains and Subalterns of each Battalion ſo formed proceed to elect Field Officers to command the ſame. And this Congreſs doth moſt earneſtly recommend that all the aforeſaid Elections be proceeded in and made with due Deliberation and generous Regard to the public Service.

Alſo *Reſolved*, That as the Security of the Lives, Liberties and Properties of the Inhabitants of this Province depends under Providence on their Knowledge and Skill in the Art Military, and in their being properly and effectually armed and equipt, if any of ſaid Inhabitants are not provided with Arms and Ammunition according to Law, they immediately provide themſelves therewith; and that they uſe their utmoſt Diligence to perfect themſelves in Military Skill; and that if any Town or Diſtrict within the Province is not provided with the full Town Stock of Arms and Ammunition according to Law, the Seleſtmen of ſuch Town or Diſtrict take effectual Care without Delay to provide the ſame.

A true Extract from the Minutes.

BENJAMIN LINCOLN, Sec'ry

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